



February 6, 2023

Dear House Labor and Industry Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your service in representing the many voices in Minnesota. We appreciate the sacrifices you and your family make in serving in the Legislature.

We write to you today on House File 981 – an unfunded mandate for the installation of adult-size changing facilities in every restroom accessible to the public. While we appreciate the intentions of this legislation, we write to you with concerns regarding the feasibility and cost of such a proposal, along with the unintended consequences of this bill.

First let us address the feasibility challenges of this legislation. Many restrooms inside small, local businesses, restaurants, gas stations, retail stores, hotels, offices, and even publicly owned buildings lack the physical space necessary for a retrofit of this magnitude. The State Capitol alone would require significant renovations for restrooms to meet the requirement outlined in the bill.

In addition, what this bill is requesting is the installation of a hydraulic lift in every public restroom in the state. The cost of this requirement alone is prohibitive.

This mandate would place yet another burden on the backs of businesses large and small still struggling with the impact of the pandemic, inflation, and a changing marketplace. And business is not alone. Our schools, city parks, and community centers are also impacted by this legislation and would be required to install this costly equipment.

It is for these many reasons we ask that you oppose House File 981. Thank you for your time and consideration.